UNITED NATIONS

Daily Highlights

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TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* Secretary-General to leave Headquarters tomorrow for official visit to Switzerland; to pay subsequent visits to Greece, Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Angola, Ethiopia and Turkey.

* Secretary-General describes meeting with United States President in San Francisco as cordial and constructive; United Nations reform and finances among matters discussed.

* UNPROFOR reports fewer firing incidents in Sarajevo, but several attacks against peace-keepers by Bosnian Serbs; Rapid Reaction Force expected to be operational by 15 July.

* OAS says Haitians were able to exercise franchise freely in Sunday's elections; 300 international observers had reasonable overview of electoral process.

* Laity Kama of Senegal elected unanimously as President of International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda; Yakov Ostrovsky chosen as Vice-President.

* UNEP announces adoption of African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement at meeting in The Hague.

* New York Museum of Modern Art presents programme of United Nations films as fiftieth anniversary commemoration.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali was back at Headquarters today, following his visit to Los Angeles and San Francisco to participate in events commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the signing of the United Nations Charter. Among his appointments today was a meeting with the Foreign Minister of Mexico, Jose Angel Guerria Trevion, according to a United Nations spokesman.

The Secretary-General will leave New York tomorrow for Geneva to begin an

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official visit to Switzerland. He will meet with the Federal President and attend celebrations marking the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. He will also attend a meeting of the Economic and Social Council on 4 July; open the Conference on Demining and address the Conference on Disarmament on 6 July; meet with heads of agencies assisting in the Occupied Territories; and preside over talks on East Timor.

Mr. Boutros-Ghali will leave Switzerland for a three-day official visit to Greece, where he will meet with the President and senior Greek officials. He will then embark on a five-day tour of Africa, taking in Uganda, Burundi, Rwanda, Angola and Ethiopia, followed by a three-day official visit to Turkey.

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The Secretary-General yesterday had a "cordial and constructive" meeting with United States President Bill Clinton in San Francisco, the spokesman said. They discussed a range of United Nations successes and some problem areas. The President reaffirmed his support for the Organization and indicated that current reform measures would be helpful in congressional debate on relations between the United Nations and the United States. The Secretary-General highlighted the Organization's financial crisis and received "an understanding hearing" from the President.

During the meeting, the Secretary-General and the President expressed satisfaction regarding the course of Sunday's elections in Haiti. They analyzed the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the deployment of the Rapid Reaction Force. Mr. Boutros-Ghali briefed Mr. Clinton on his upcoming visit to Africa, and they discussed the deteriorating situations in Liberia and Sierre Leone. Also discussed were the issue of East Timor and the situations in Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Guatemala.

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The number of firing incidents in and around Sarajevo yesterday fell to 900, according to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR). However, the Bosnian Government said four civilians had been killed and five wounded in shelling and sniping incidents. UNPROFOR was unable to verify the Government's claim because of restrictions on its movement.

Meanwhile, the Bosnian Serbs launched several attacks against UNPROFOR. Five mortar rounds were fired at a French observation post on Zuc hill, injuring one soldier, while four rounds were fired at French peace-keepers on the Mount Igman road. UNPROFOR Commander Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith vigorously protested those incidents.

UNPROFOR reported that the British and Dutch components of the Rapid Reaction Force were almost complete, while the French component would be in position by 1 July. The Force was expected to be operational by 15 July.

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Haitian voters were able to exercise their franchise freely in Sunday's national elections, according to the Organization of American States (OAS). It said in a preliminary statement that some 300 observers from 31 countries had been deployed throughout Haiti, and that they had had a reasonable overview of the electoral process.

The OAS noted that there had been some inadequacies and difficulties during the voting, but stressed the successful aspects of the elections. International assessments had been generally positive, although the opposition parties in Haiti had raised objections regarding the process.

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The 11 Judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda today unanimously elected Laity Kama of Senegal as President of the Tribunal, and Yakov Ostrovsky of the Russian Federation as Vice-President. The Tribunal began work yesterday, with the opening of its first plenary session in The Hague.

The Rwanda Tribunal was established by the Security Council to prosecute persons who committed genocide and other serious violations of humanitarian law between 1 January and 31 December 1994. It is currently meeting at the headquarters of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, but will be based in Arusha, Tanzania.

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An ambitious intergovernmental agreement aimed at conserving the waterbirds of Africa and Eurasia has been adopted at a meeting in The Hague, according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The African-Eurasian Waterbird Agreement covers species which are dependent on wetlands for at least part of their annual cycle, including pelicans, storks, flamingoes, ducks and geese. It covers 150 species over an area of 60 million square kilometres -- almost 40 per cent of the earth's land mass.

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The New York Museum of Modern Art is currently presenting a programme of films produced by the United Nations as part of the worldwide commemoration of the Organization's fiftieth anniversary. The programme has been organized by the Museum's Department of Film and Video, and features films selected from the United Nations Film Archives. It will run through 4 July.

The programme includes documentaries and newsreel footage, video news magazines, animated and concert films, and public service announcements produced by United Nations agencies. Highlights include the Academy Award-winning short "First Steps" (1947), and rare footage of appearances by world leaders at the United Nations over the last fifty years.

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